

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR AND PRESIDENT PERON: RELATIONS STILL UNCLEAR

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0402

1. DECLARATIONS BY CGT SECGEN HERRERAS FOLLOWING HIS JANUARY 21 INTERVIEW WITH MRS. PERON INDICATE THAT, DESPITE THE STATEMENTS BY 62 ORGANIZATIONS LEADER MIGUEL (REFTEL), MRS. PERON'S PROBLEMS WITH LABOR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN DEFUSED AFTER ALL. WHILE MIGUEL DENIED ANY CONFRONTATION OR DIFFERENCES WITH PRESIDENT OR HER ADVISORS, HERRERAS TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE EXPRESSED TO PRESIDENT LABOR'S PREOCCUPATION WITH RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ADVISED HER OF LABOR'S BELIEF THAT THOSE AROUND HER WERE ATTEMPTING TO ISOLATE HER FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT. HE DID NOT ELABORATE IN HIS STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS, AND, SURPRISINGLY, CUT THE INTERVIEW SHORT. FOLLOWING THE SUBSEQUENT CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WAS RELEASED EXPRESSING THE CGT'S "UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF HERRERAS' OBSERVATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PUBLIC DECLARATIONS."

2. AN ADDITIONAL COMMENT MADE BY HERRERAS WHICH CONFLICTED WITH MIGUEL'S STATEMENTS WAS THAT ADDITIONAL CABINET CHANGES WERE LIKELY TO OCCUR. MIGUEL HAD STATED THAT PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED HIM THERE WOULD BE NO ADDITIONAL CHANGES. THE JANUARY 22 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEDIA PUT GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATEMENTS

BY MIGUEL AND HERRERAS, AND NOTED THAT JUSTICIALIST PARTY VICE PRESIDENT BAEZ'S OBSERVATIONS OF PREVIOUS DAY HAD BEEN MORE CLOSELY IN LINE WITH THOSE OF HERRERAS. THE GENERAL MEDIA REACTION WAS ONE OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO MEANING OF THOSE DISPARATE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY MIGUEL AND HERRERAS. LABOR SOURCES CONTACTED THUS FAR TODAY (NONE OF WHOM WERE AT CGT MEETING LAST NIGHT) WERE ALSO UNCLEAR AS TO REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERING STATEMENTS.

3. CGT HAS MEETING SCHEDULED WITH MINECON CAFIERO TODAY (JANUARY 22) TO DISCUSS WAGE ISSUE. CAFIERO IS REPORTED HOLDING FOR A 15 PER CENT INCREASE WHILE LABOR IS DEMANDING A MINIMUM 20 PER CENT. A RAILWAY UNION OFFICIAL TOLD LABATT TODAY THAT 20 PER CENT WAS THE MAXIMUM LABOR EXPECTED TO OBTAIN, BUT THAT NEITHER HIS UNION NOR THE OTHERS WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH IT. ACCORDINGLY, WHATEVER POLITICAL DIFFERENCES THERE MIGHT STILL BE WITH THE PRESIDENT WILL PLAY A ROLE IN THE AMOUNT DECREED.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANCE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HERRERAS' AND MIGUEL'S STATEMENTS IS STILL NOT CLEAR, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MRS. PERON'S PROBLEMS WITH LABOR SECTOR HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. NOR DOES IT APPEAR THAT THE TRADE UNION UNITY FORGED DURING THIS CRISIS HAS ENDURED. ACCORDINGLY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN POLITICAL/LABOR CIRCUS CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED MOMENTARILY.

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